

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4116

UNCLAS MEXICO 4536

DEPT PASS NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENTS

REF: STATE 024094

1. EMBASSY HAS ALREADY REPORTED ON DELIVERY OF 20 FERRO-CONCRETE CUBAN-BUILT VESSELS TO MEXICO. THESE ARE STANDARD GULF SHRIMP TRAWLER DESIGN AND WILL BE USED AS TRAINING VESSELS FOR THE FISHERY SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

2. UNDERSECRETARY MEDINA NERI TOOK PART IN DISCUSSIONS IN ROME IN JANUARY DEALING WITH A POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION OF THE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT IN FAO. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF 30 COUNTRIES. MEDINA NERI SAYS THAT LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE CAME OF THE MEETING. THE QUESTION OF MEXICO'S EXTENDED JURISDICTION WAS NOT A SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION.

3. THE STATEMENT BY MEDINA NERI THAT MEXICO'S FISHERY LANDINGS WILL EXCEED ONE MILLION METRIC TONS WAS A PROJECTION AND NOT INTENDED TO APPLY TO 1976. MEXICO IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A FISHERY FOR THE NORTHERN ANCHOVY OFF OF BAJA CALIFORNIA FOR THE PRODUCTION OF FISHMEAL. FAO EXPERTS PREDICT THAT THIS FISHERY COULD EVENTUALLY SUSTAIN A YEARLY CATCH OF 500,000 TO 700,000 METRIC TONS. IF THIS FISHERY IS

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FULLY DEVELOPED, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WITHIN A FEW YEARS

MEXICO'S TOTAL FISHERY LANDINGS COULD EXCEED ONE MILLION METRIC TONS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT MOST OF THE FISHMEAL PRODUCED WILL BE CONSUMED DOMESTICALLY. THE NORTHERN ANCHOVY EXISTS BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE BORDER AND THE POPULATION CONCENTRATION SHIFTS NORTH AND SOUTH. IN ORDER TO SUSTAIN AN ANCHOVY FISHERY OF THE MAGNITUDE THAT MEXICO HOPES TO DEVELOP IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY IN CERTAIN YEARS TO FISH NORTH OF THE BORDER. IN VIEW OF THE PROBABLE EXTENSION OF U.S. JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES, THIS WOULD REQUIRE THE PERMISSION OF USG.
THOMPSON

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